

GRAPHX PRESS

NO. 1

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WHY RENT WHEN
YOU CAN OWN

MORPHS

GOOD NIGHT,
CAN IT BE
REAL?!

WOW!!!
FIRST ISSUE

SEE CHARACTERS
FIGHTING FOR
THEIR LIVES!!!

SEE BLURBS
FIGHTING FOR
ROOM ON THE COVER!

MORPHS

No. 1 April, 1987

**PUNK MUTANTS
ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
VS,
DALMATION ALLEY**
BY PHIL MORRISSEY

STAR LIZARD
BY TOM OWENS

**KITTY MALONE
IN
THE TEETH OF THE PHAROAH**
BY JOHN SPEIDEL

**GEORGIE GOES TO THE
CON**
BY JERRY COLLINS

**J.L. COON
IN
HIT AND RUN**
BY TOM LINEHAN



Typesetting by Mark Wallace

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IN THE LAST DAYS OF REALITY, MID 1990's IN HUMAN TERMS, A DEVICE LABELED 'DEUS MACHINA' OR 'THE GOD MACHINE' WAS

CREATED TO SOLVE MAN'S PROBLEMS BY TWISTING REALITY AND ERASING

THEM! THE 'GOD MACHINE'

WAS FLAWED AND PRO-

CEEDED TO TWIST OUR EARTH

INSIDE-OUT!! THIS ENDED A CONCEPT WE KNOW

AS SANITY AS WE KNEW IT! COFFEE BECAME

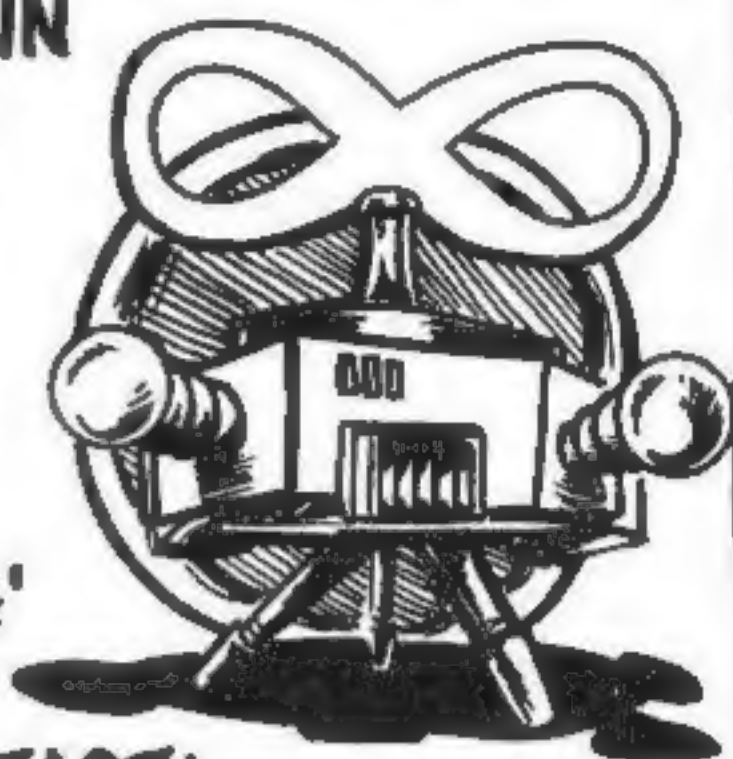
THE NUMBER ONE DRUG, FOR IT CAUSED THE

CREATURE INGESTING IT TO REALISE THAT THIS

WAS NOT JUST A BAD DREAM! THIS IS THE SAGA OF TWO

INTREPID COFFEE RUNNERS, BUCKY BOARDELLO AND CHERRIES

JUBILEE, A COUPLE OF.....



PUNK MUTANTS

...ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES!

© 1986

BY: *R. Morris*

V S.



(THIS STORY IS DEDICATED TO MY LATE GRANDFATHER, CHARLES ALLRED.)

MEET CHERRIES.



MEET BUCKY.

TWITT



BLAM



GUESS HE PUT PICKLES ON CHERRIES BURGER AGAIN. HMMM.

OTHER MECHANICAL NOISES
TURN RATCHET



FOOD TIME BUCKY!

O'BOY!



YOU'D BETTER ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS, BUCK.

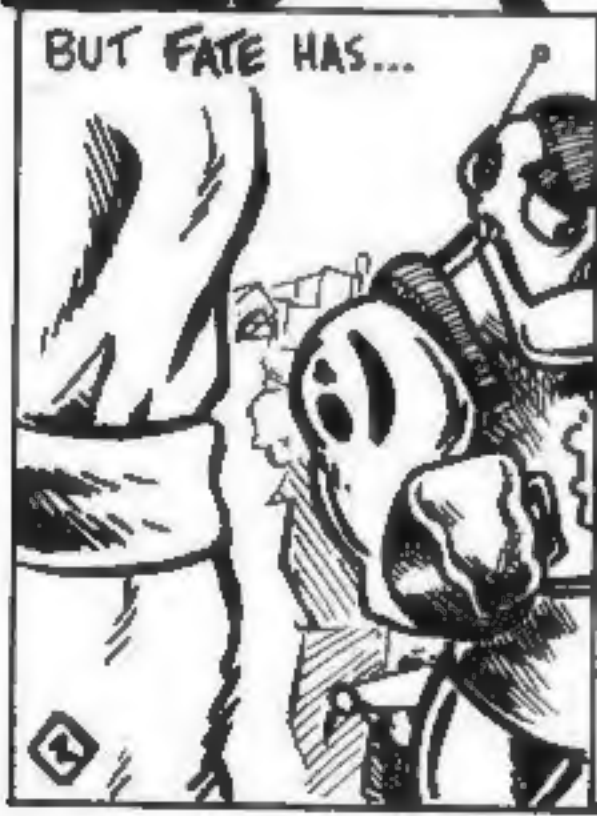


HUH?

WE'RE BROKE, BUCK.



"SIGH"



BUT FATE HAS...



OTHER THINGS...



IN MIND!



AHUM.



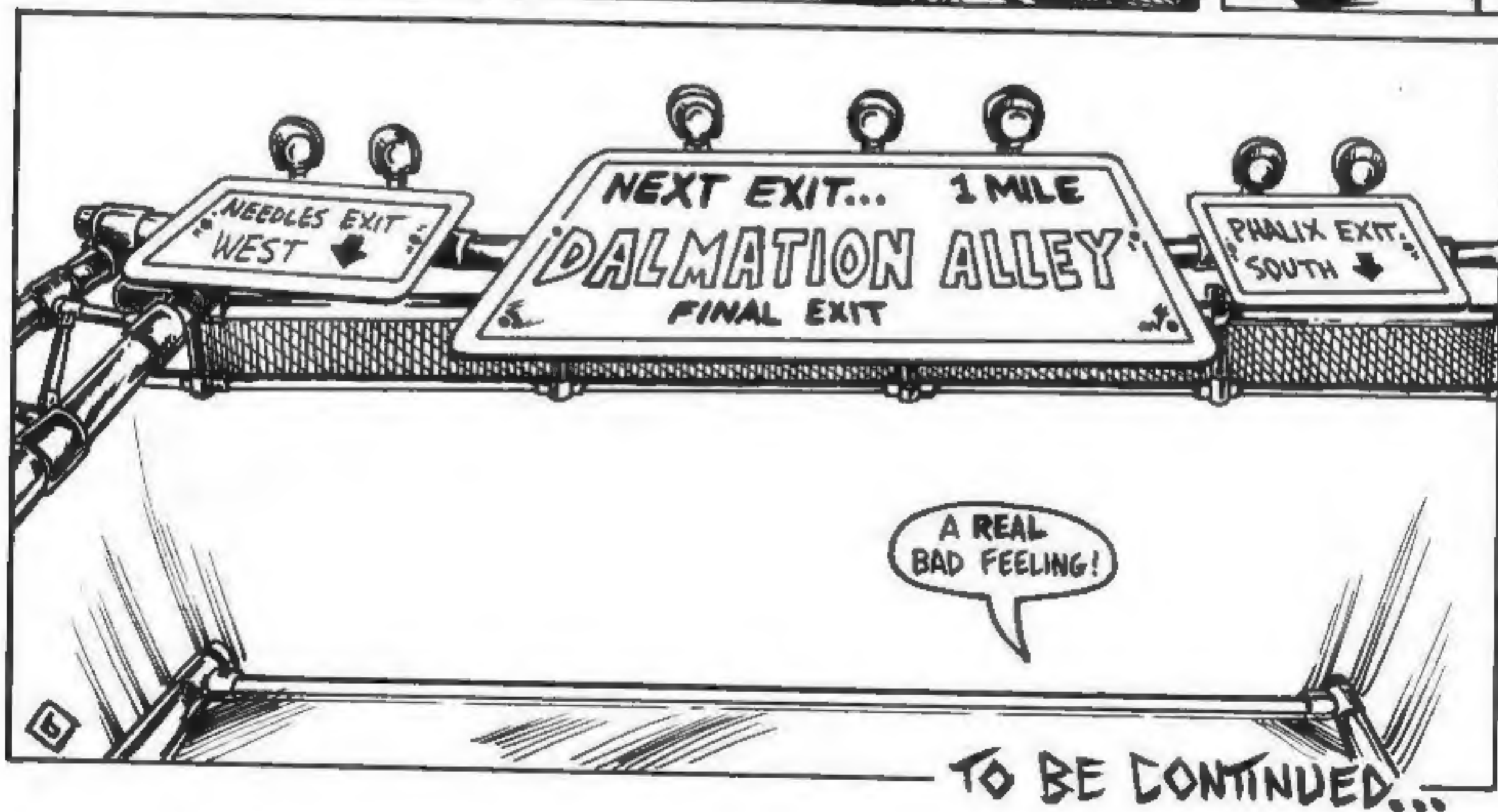
ORIGINALLY WE HAD TWO VEHICLES, THE SANDBLASTER ALL TERRAIN EFFECT VEHICLE. UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO AN ACCIDENT ONE WAS, AHEM, DISABLED! LUCKILY THROUGH SOME RESEARCH YOUR VEHICLE WAS FOUND AVAILABLE, HERE IN FLAGPOLE. THE ROUTE WE'LL TAKE IS VERY VOLITIALE ONE INDEED, CALLED **DALMATION ALLEY!** IT IS THOUGH THE FASTEST ROUTE TO ALBUQUERQUE AND THIS SHIPMENT ROUTE IS A VITAL OPERATION TO THE NATIONAL DEFENCE. THE REASON WE CAN'T HAUL THE COFFEE OURSELVES IS THAT WE'RE CARRYING AN OLD **TITAN II** AS PART OF THE DEAL!







MORNING. AS THE SUN RISES IN THE NORTH, TWO HEAVY VEHICLES PREPARE TO DEPART FROM FLAGPOLE...



STAR LIZARD!
WAKE UP!!
BZZZT



HUH?



OMIGOSH! ITS
THE CAPTAIN!

YES
SIR?



IF TALON AGENTS FINISH THIS
STATION, THE FEDERATION WOULD
BE HELPLESS AGAINST THEM!!
IT IS QUICKLY NEARING
COMPLETION! YOU'VE GOT TO
DESTROY IT. WERE COUNTING
ON YOU, LITTLE
TROOPER, CAN
YOU DO IT?!

THRILLSVILLE

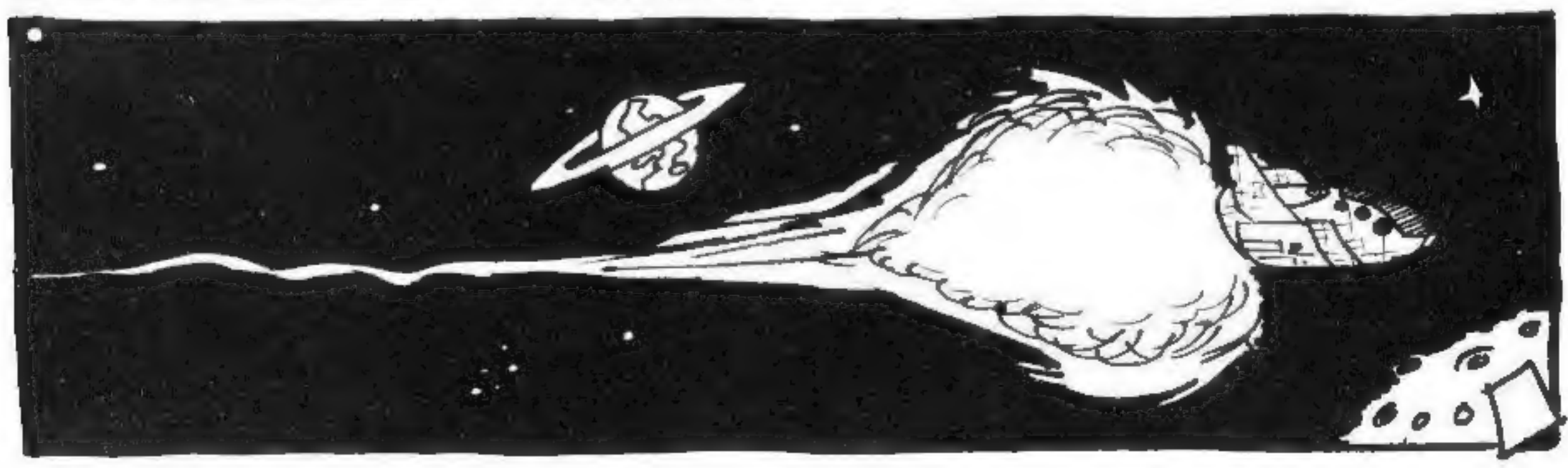


JUST CALLIN' TUH GIVE
YUH YER NEW ASSIGN-
MENT! WE NEED YOUR
HELP!! YOU'VE GOT TO
KNOCK OUT
THE NEW
TALON SPACE
STATION!

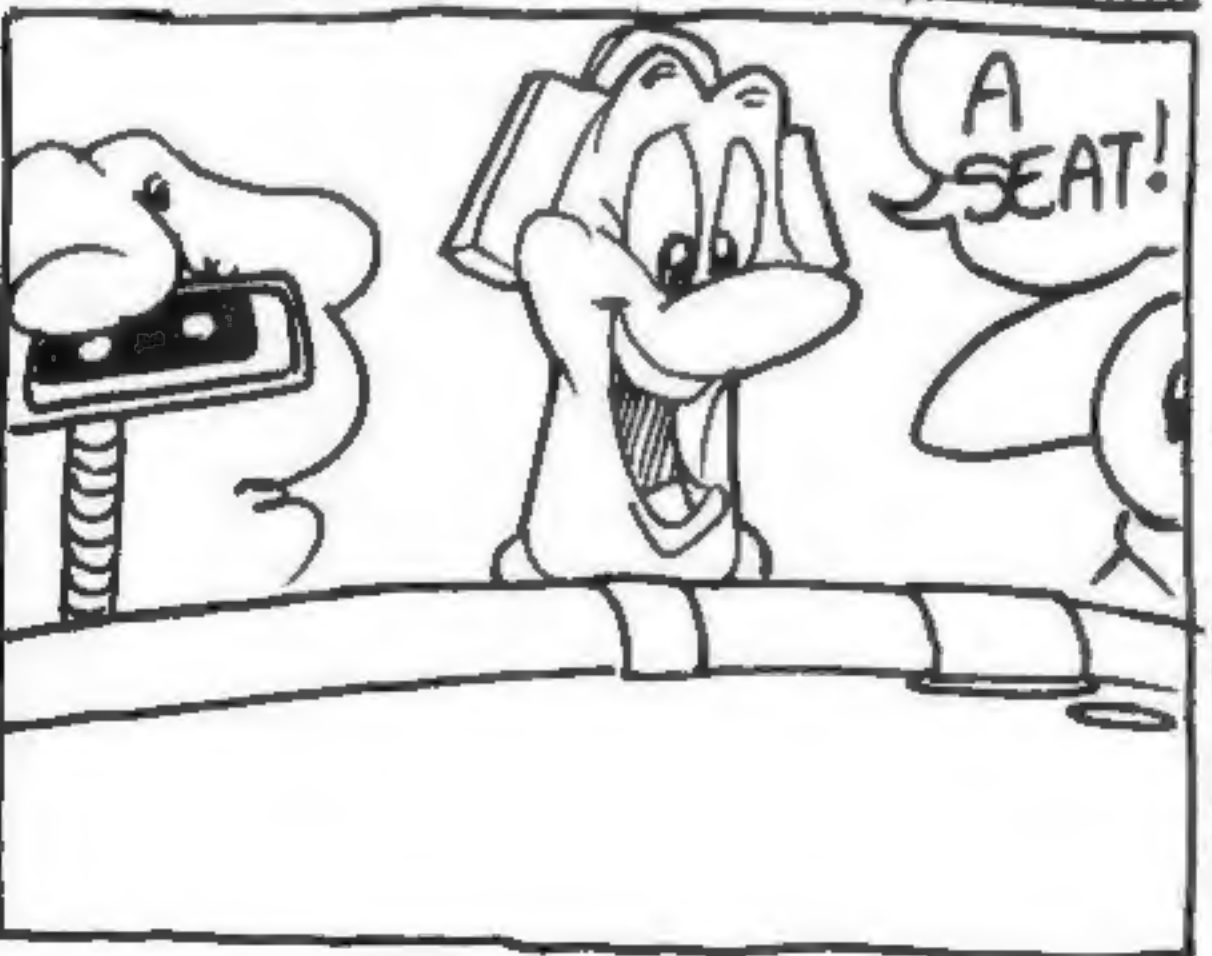
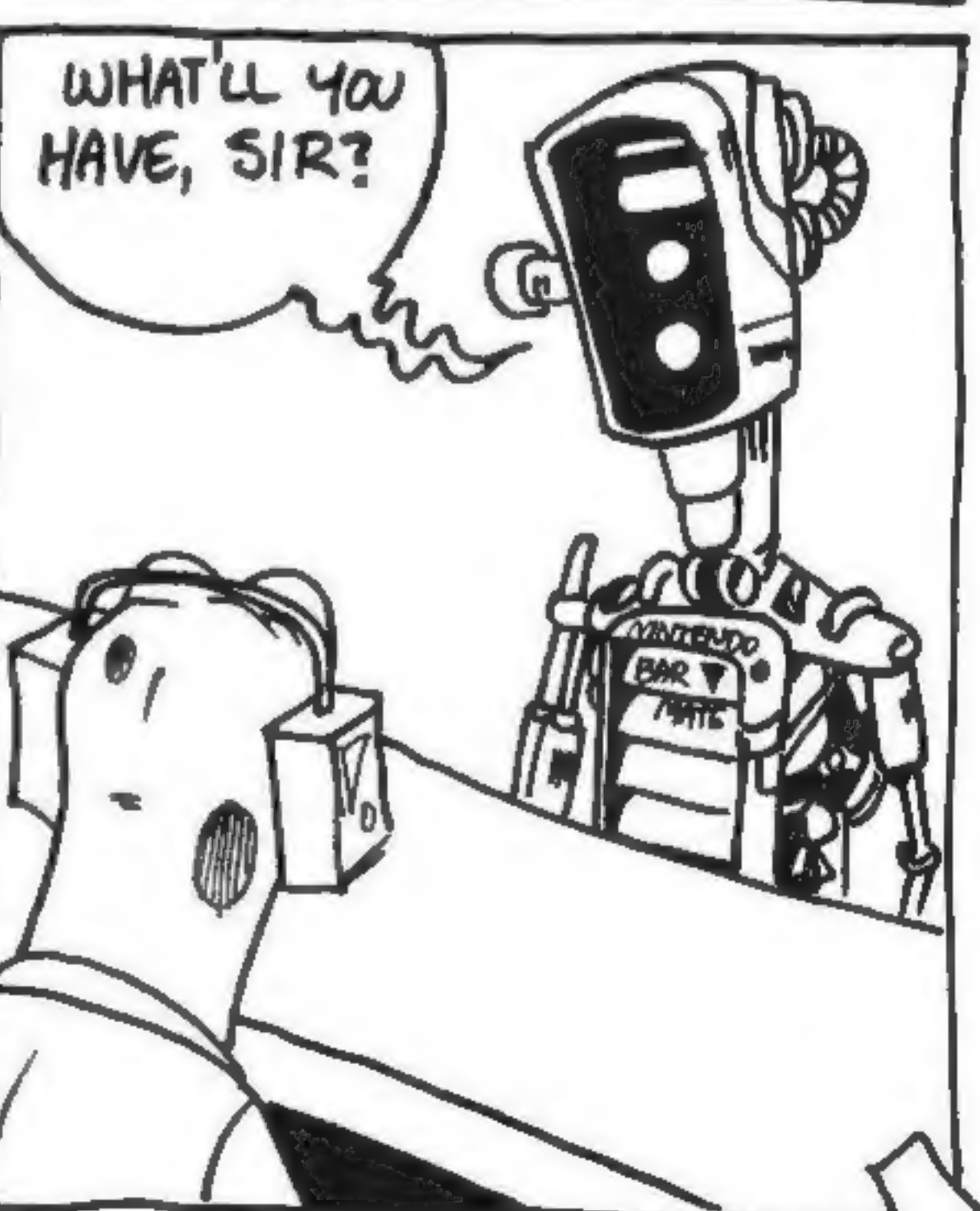
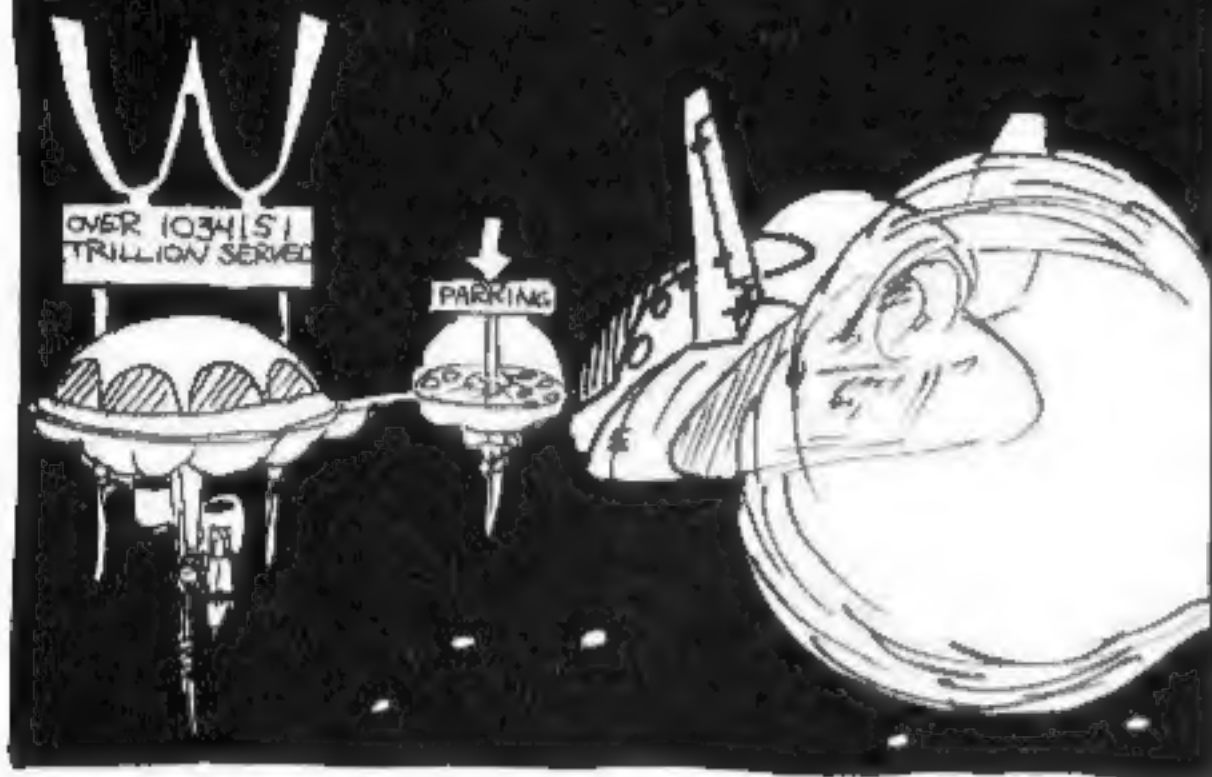


IM ON MY WAY

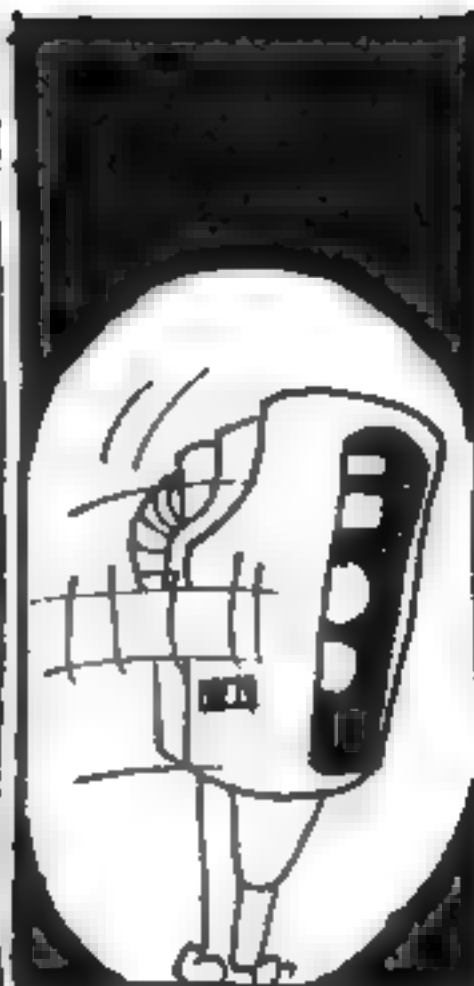
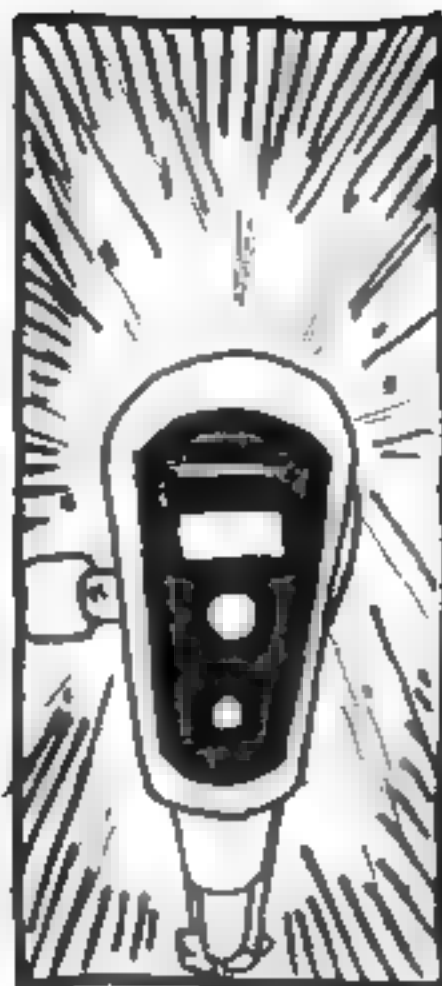
GOOD
LAD!



BUT FIRST, SOMETHING
TO EAT!



MILK— WITH CHOCOLATE. AN'
TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE TALON SPACE
STATION.

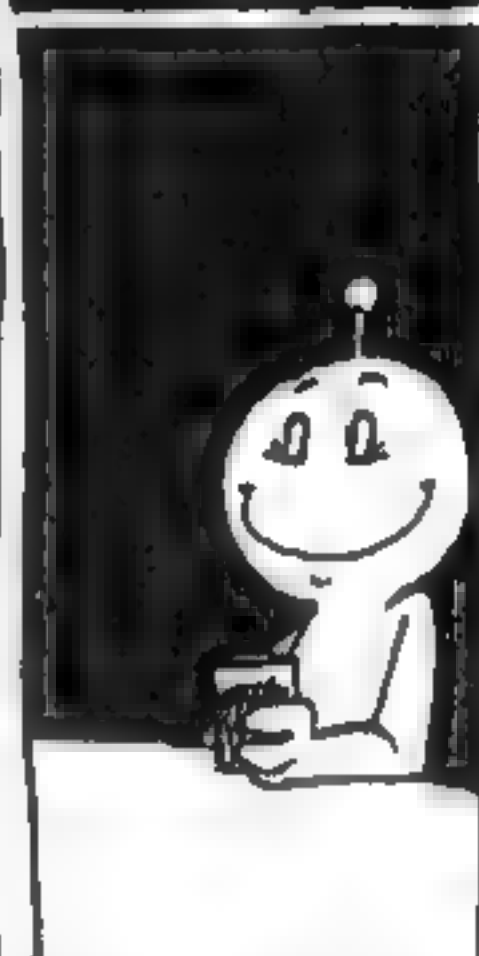
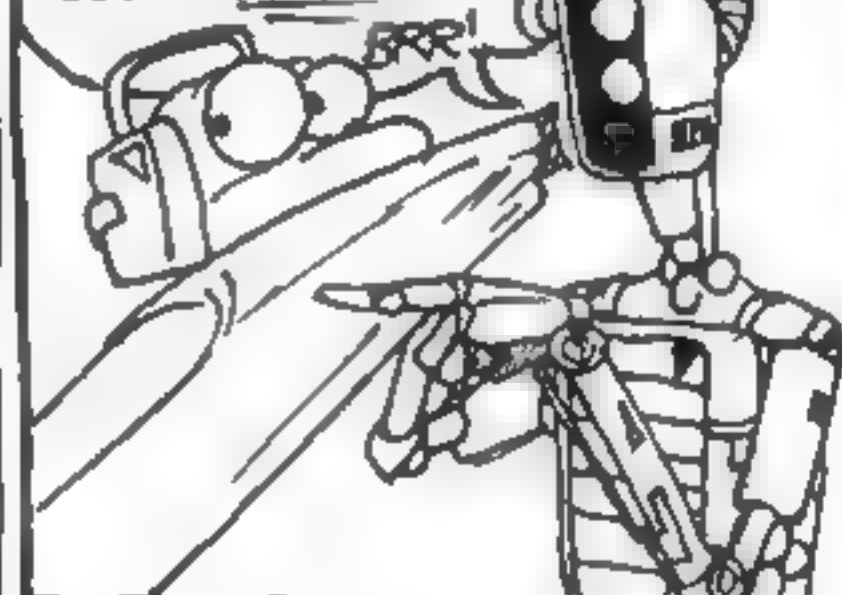


FOOL! HOLD YOUR
TONGUE!!

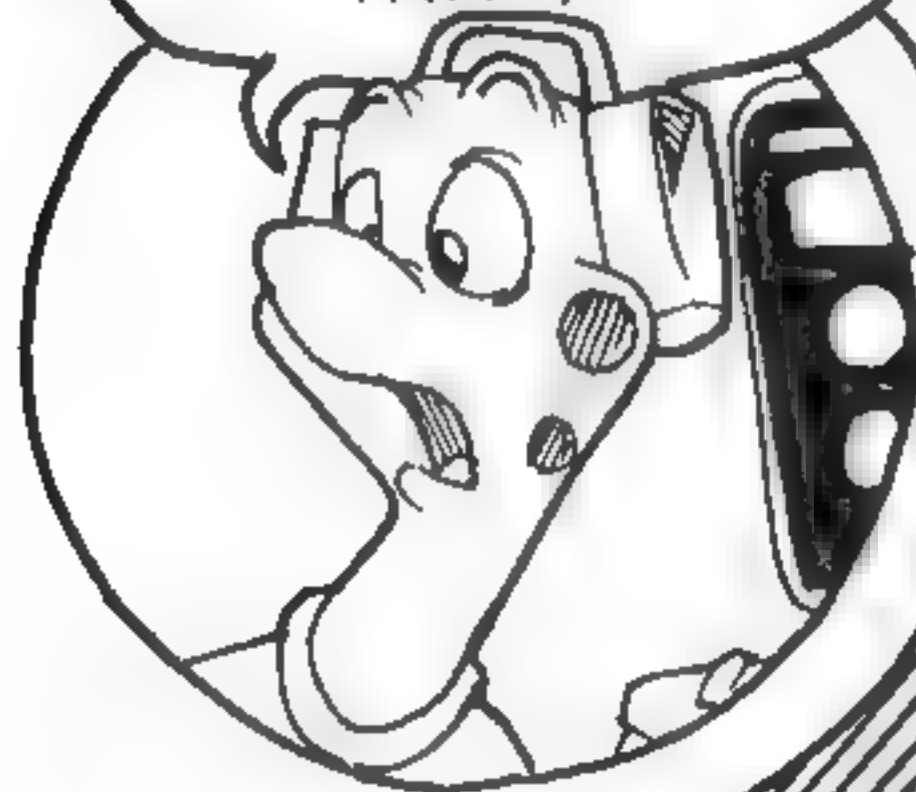
TALONS MINIONS
ARE ALL
AROUND US!
HE SEES
ALL, AND
HE KNOWS
ALL!!



LOOK! OVER THERE SITS ONE
OF TALONS' MINIONS NOW!
THEY'RE MINDLESS SAVAGES!
RUTHLESS, HEART-
LESS KILLERS!



BUT HE LOOKS SO
HAPPY—



THEY ALWAYS LOOK LIKE
THAT. THATS TO FOOL YOU, BUT
LET ME TELL YOU— THEY'RE
VICIOUS LITTLE BUGARS!
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO
ANNOY THEM!
THEY'LL MELT
YOUR FACE
OFF!



I'M GONNA HAVE A
TALK WITH THIS
LIL' RUNT!



LOOK
HERE YOU—



CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE...



KITTY MALONE IN

THE TEETH OF THE PHARAOH

MAGNIFICENT
IS IT NOT?

VERY... UM...
INTERESTING
THIRD DYNASTY,
ISN'T IT?

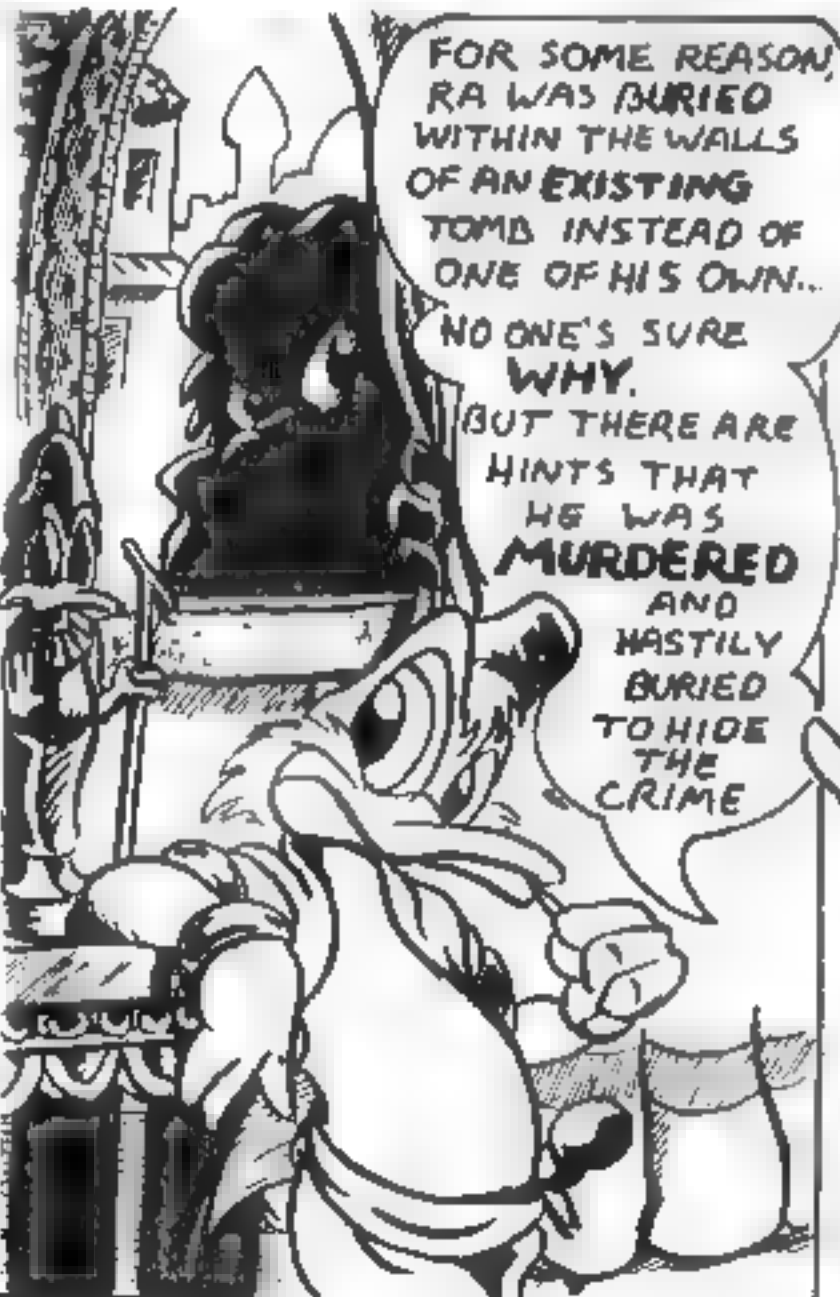
WHY, YES
IT IS!

YOU HAVE A VERY
GOOD... ER... EYE,
MISS MALONE!

KITTY, IF YOU
WANT TO SEE
ANCIENT ARTWORKS
WE CAN GO TO MY
UNCLE OMAR'S
CULTURAL MUSEUM
AND GRILL ROOM!

BE PATIENT, ALI,
I'M SURE THE PROFESSOR
HAS A GOOD REASON
FOR CALLING US IN.

YOU BET
I HAVE!



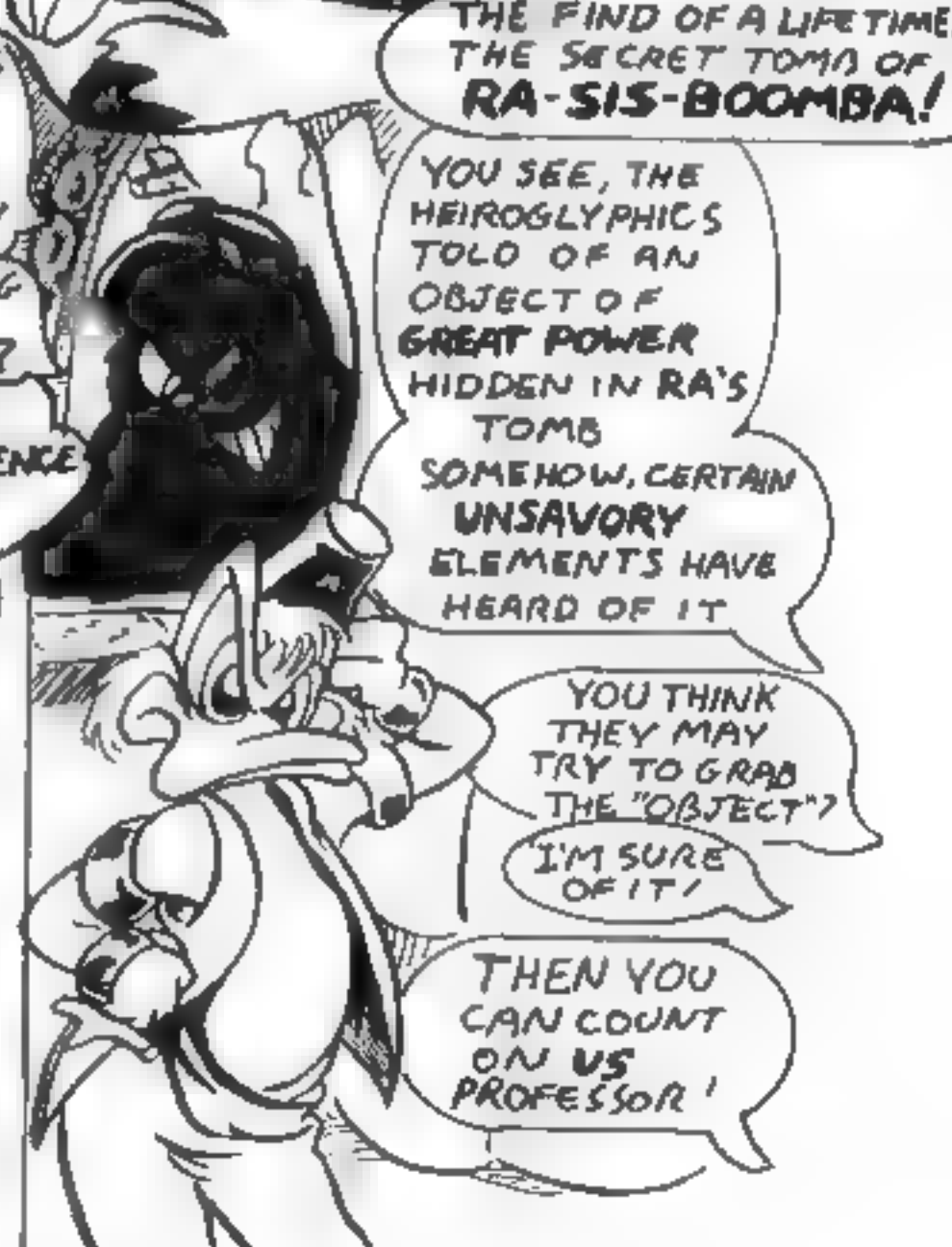
FOR SOME REASON,
RA WAS BURIED
WITHIN THE WALLS
OF AN EXISTING
TOMB INSTEAD OF
ONE OF HIS OWN...
NO ONE'S SURE
WHY.
BUT THERE ARE
HINTS THAT
HE WAS
MURDERED
AND
HASTILY
BURIED
TO HIDE
THE
CRIME



THE HIEROGLYPHICS
ON THAT OLD
STATUE GAVE ME
CLUES TO THE
TOMB'S LOCATION

THAT'S FASCINATING
PROFESSOR.
BUT WHY CALL US?

WELL, YOU BOTH
HAVE .ER EXPERIENCE
WITH ANTIQUITIES
BUT THERE'S
ANOTHER
REASON...



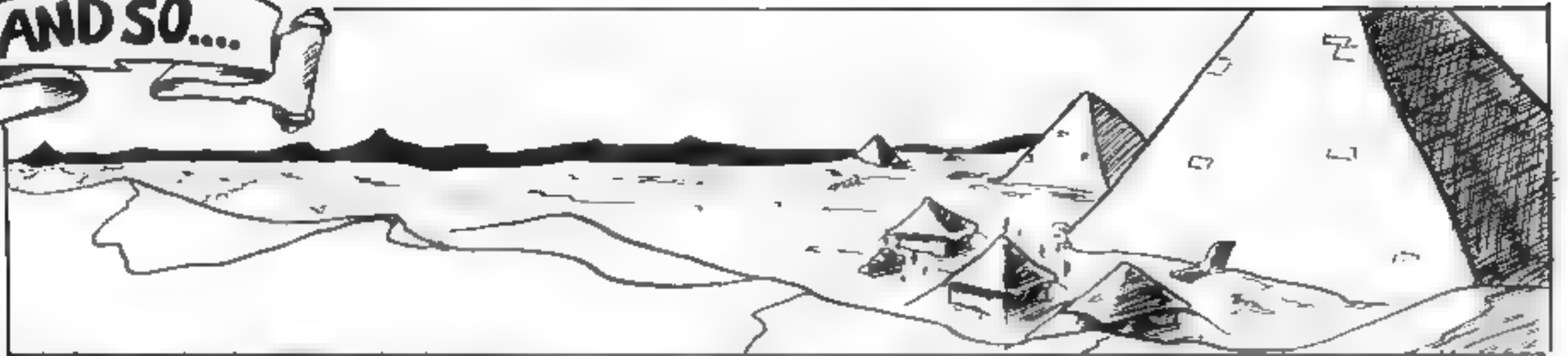
THE FIND OF A LIFETIME.
THE SECRET TOMBS OF
RA-SIS-BOOMBA!

YOU SEE, THE
HIEROGLYPHICS
TOLD OF AN
OBJECT OF
GREAT POWER
HIDDEN IN RA'S
TOMB
SOMEHOW, CERTAIN
UNSAVORY
ELEMENTS HAVE
HEARD OF IT

YOU THINK
THEY MAY
TRY TO GRAB
THE "OBJECT"?
I'M SURE
OF IT!

THEN YOU
CAN COUNT
ON US
PROFESSOR!

AND SO....



AH, NOW WASN'T I SMART TO JOIN THE PROFESSOR INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME AT MY UNCLE'S TOURIST TRAP?

AS ALWAYS ALI... WHAT IS IT KABOOOIE?

EFFENDI SAY YOU AND SHORT, NOISEY ONE MUST COME TO SITE, MISSY..



HELLO?

AH, KITTY, ALI... COME IN! I'LL SHOW YOU THE ANTE-CHAMBER WE DISCOVERED! IT'S TIME FOR THE CREW'S LUNCH BREAK, ANYWAY..



OH, PROFESSOR! IT'S WONDERFUL! DEFINITELY THIRD DYNASTY

TAKE CARE LITTLE FLOWER!



IF THIS TOMB WAS HASTILY BUILT, IT MAY BE UNSAFE A LOOSE STONE MAY CAUSE A.....



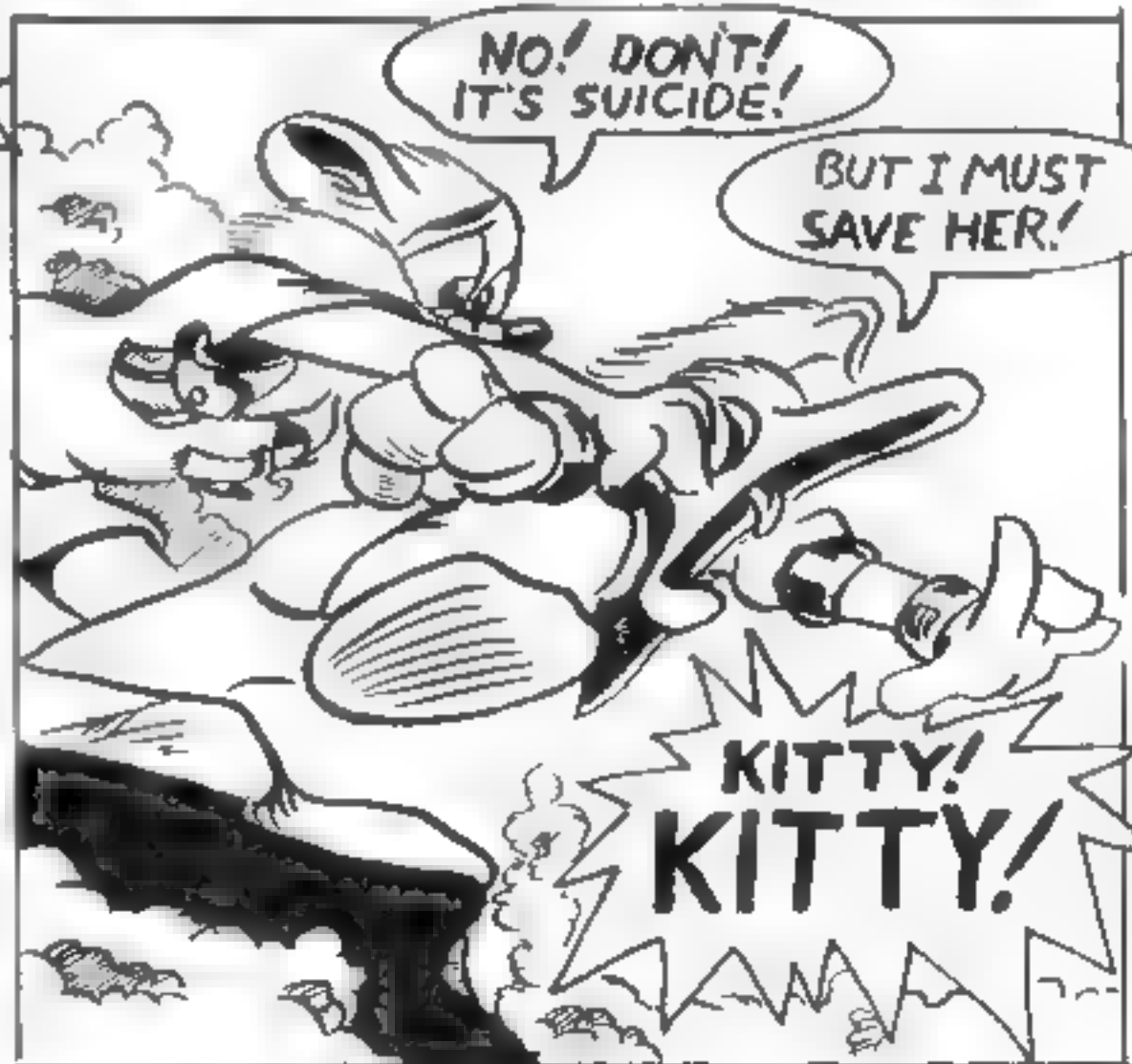
CAVE IN! KITTY!

ALI-I-I!



NO! DON'T! IT'S SUICIDE!

BUT I MUST SAVE HER!



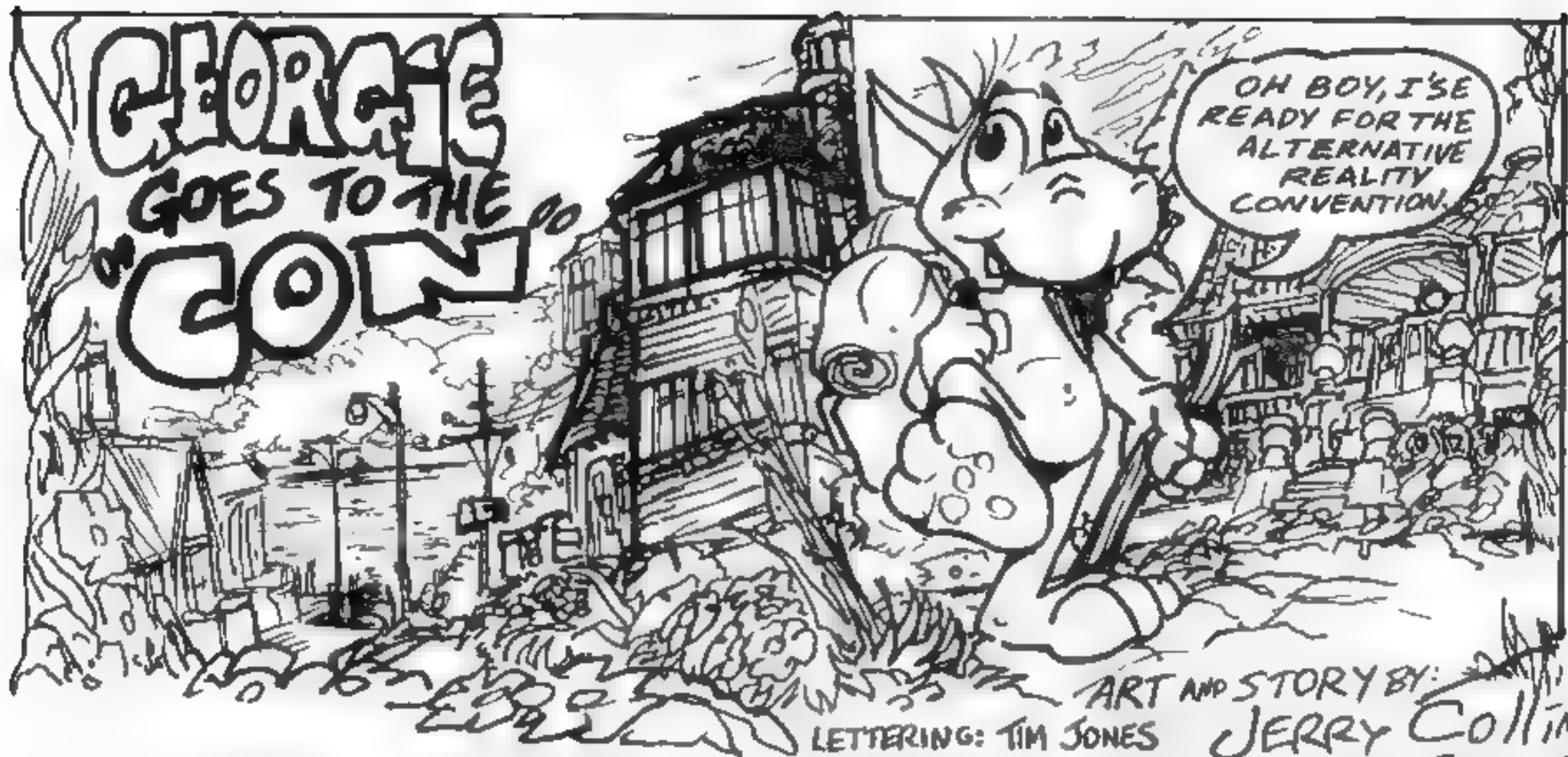
KITTY! KITTY!





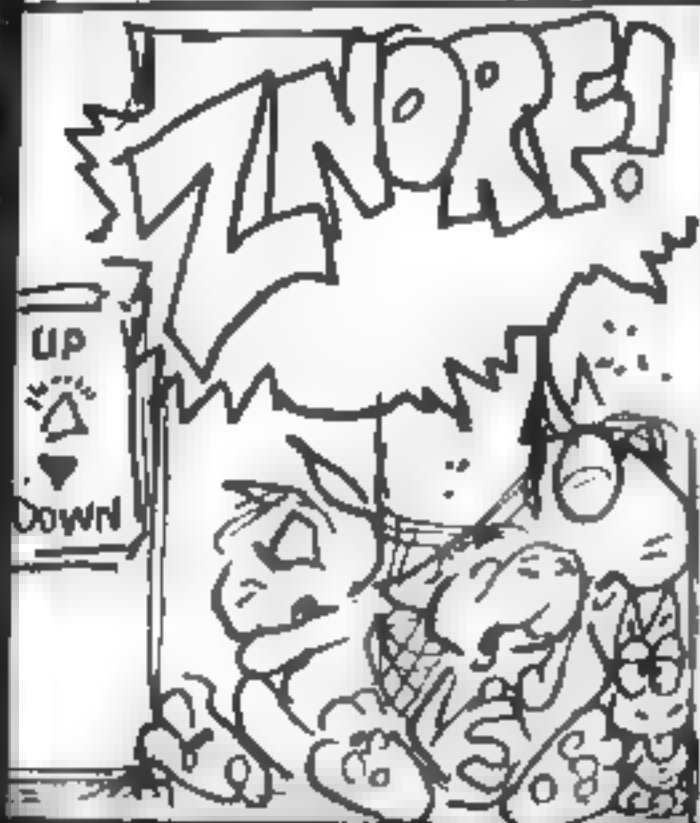








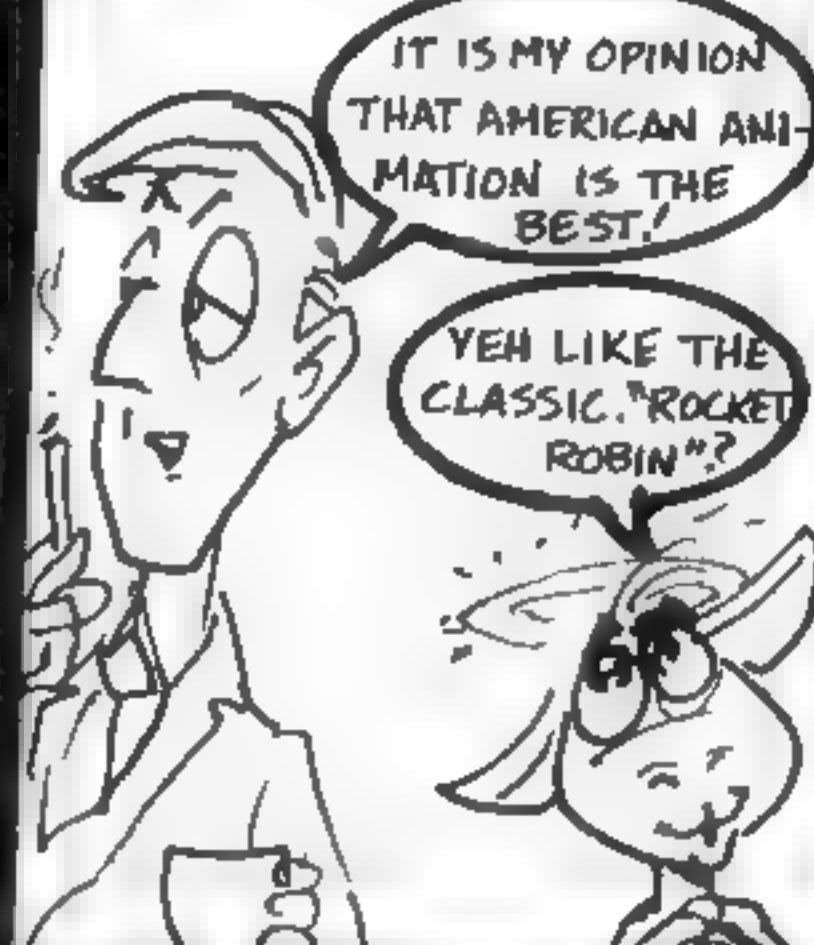
SOME OTHER ASPECTS
OF THE CONVENTION
"ELEVATOR RACING!"



"BUFFET BLITZKRIEG"



"POMPOUS PERSON POPPING"



AND "MOOM" PICTURES!







AND SO GEORGIE'S WEEKEND
COMES TO A CLOSE ... ALL GOOD
THINGS MUST END...

AW HECK! IT'S
THE END OF
THE STRIP AND THE
GANARF HAD A GREAT
TIME!
THERE! YA
HAPPY NOW!

Finis.

J.L. COON IN

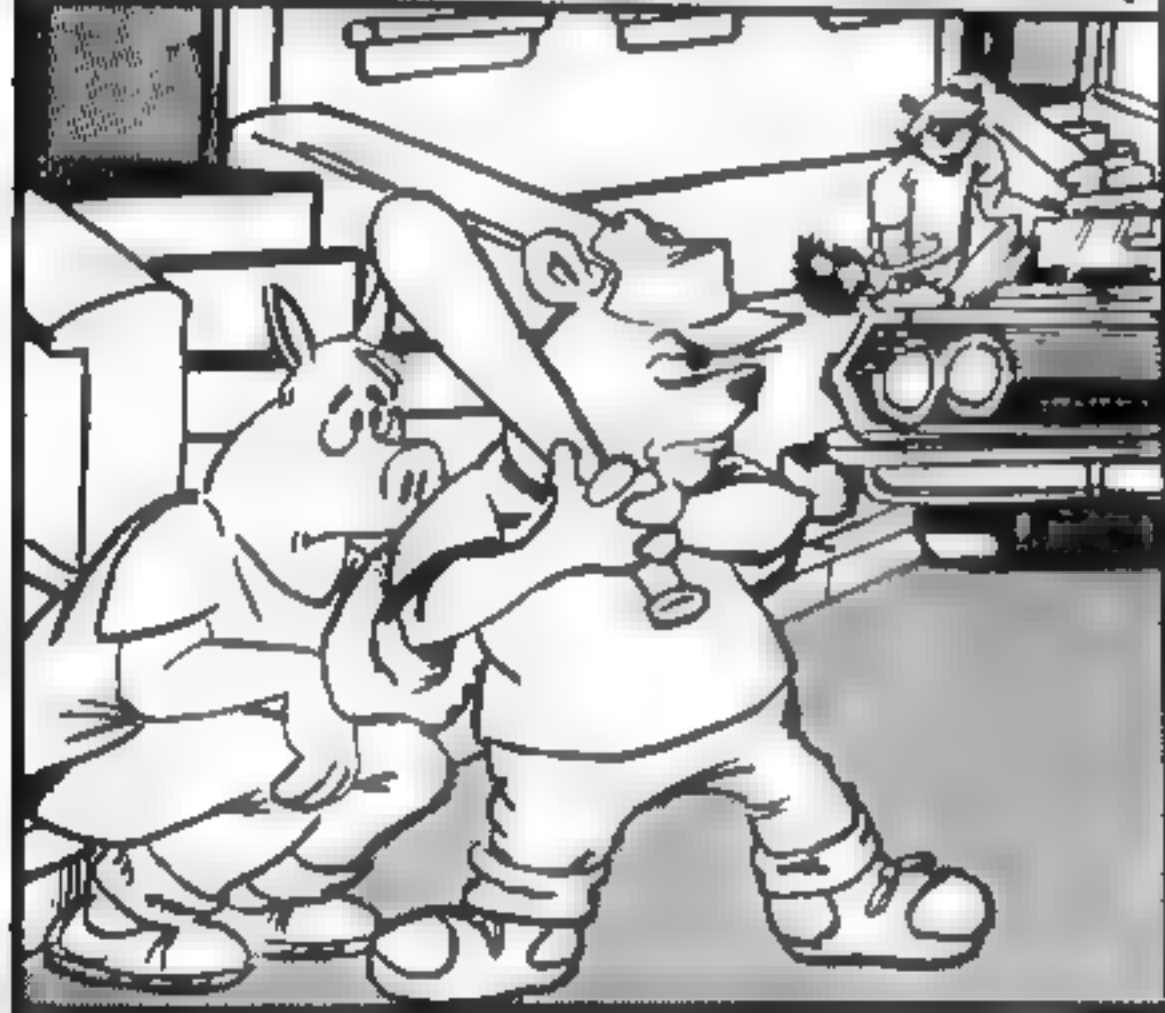
"HIT AND RUN"

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY
T. LINEHAN '86

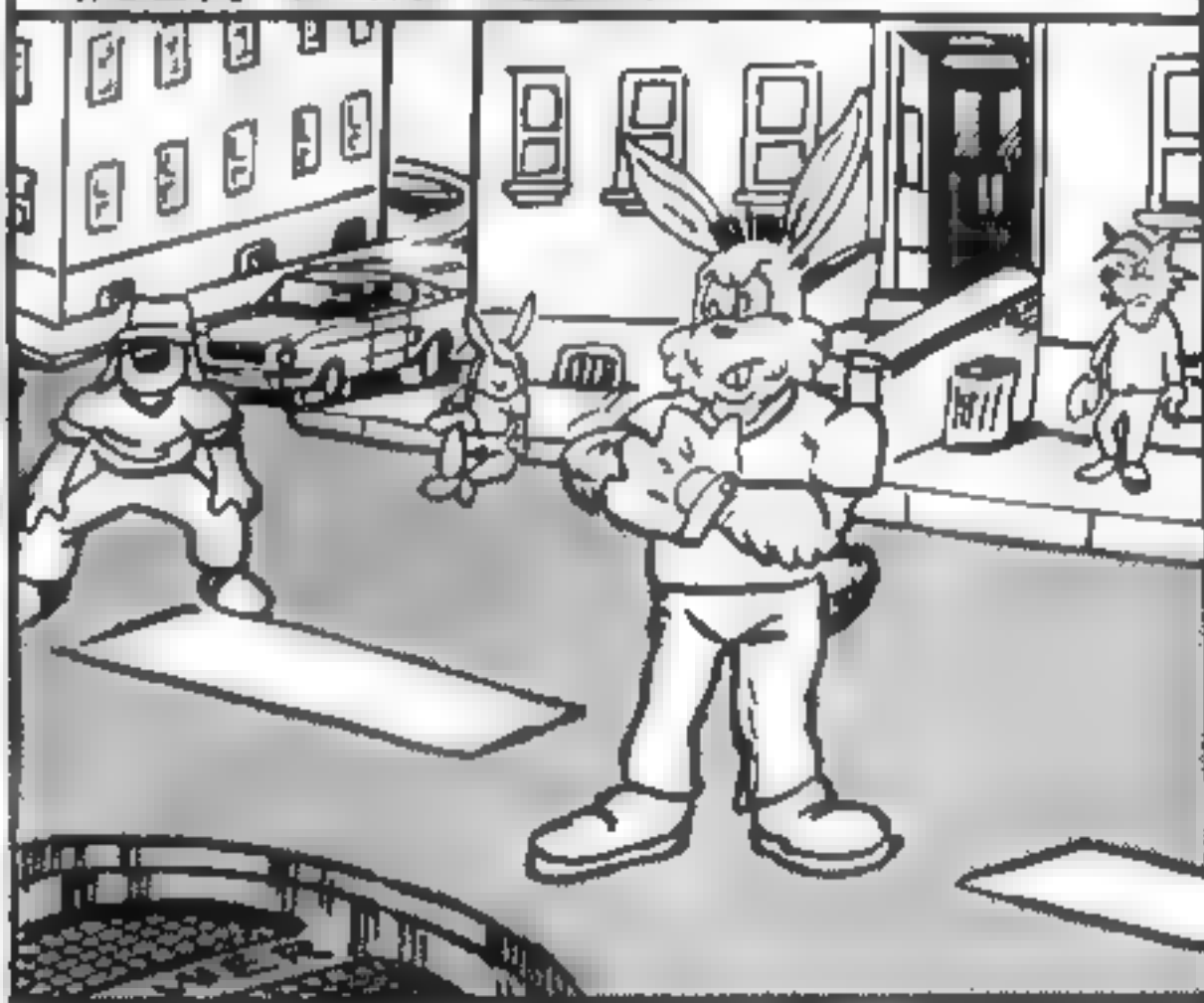
SOME GUYS JOG, SOME LIFT WEIGHTS,
BUT MY IDEA OF A REAL WORKOUT IS
WAXING THE CAR ON A NICE SPRING DAY.



OF COURSE, WHEN YOU'RE YOUNGER, ONE'S
ENERGIES ARE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE
GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME... BASEBALL.



SINCE WE HAD NO LOCAL FIELD IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD, THE GAME WAS LITERALLY
TAKEN TO THE STREETS.

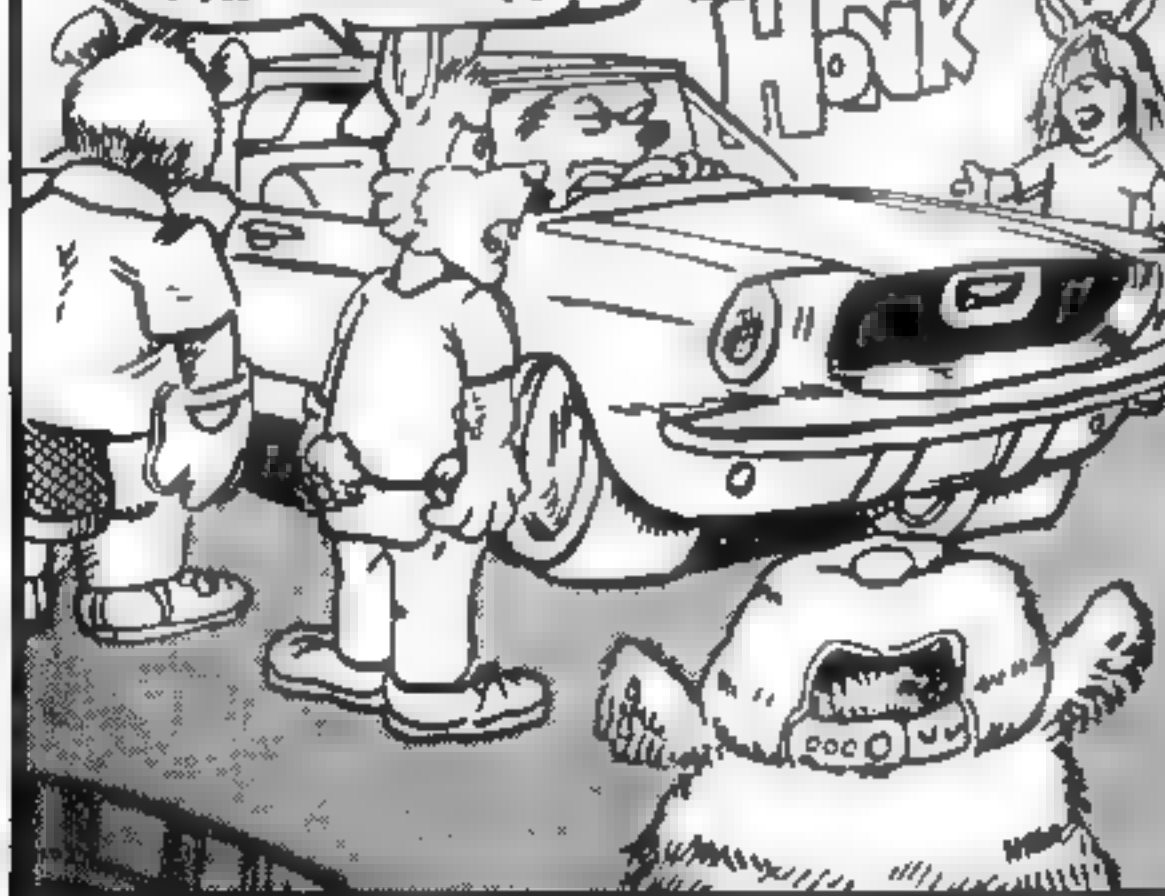


WITH TIME-OUTS ALLOWED FOR THE
PASSING TRAFFIC... OF COURSE,

HOW MANY TIMES
DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU
"WATCH OUT FOR
THE CARS!?!?"

Honk
Honk

GEE,
I'M
SORRY!



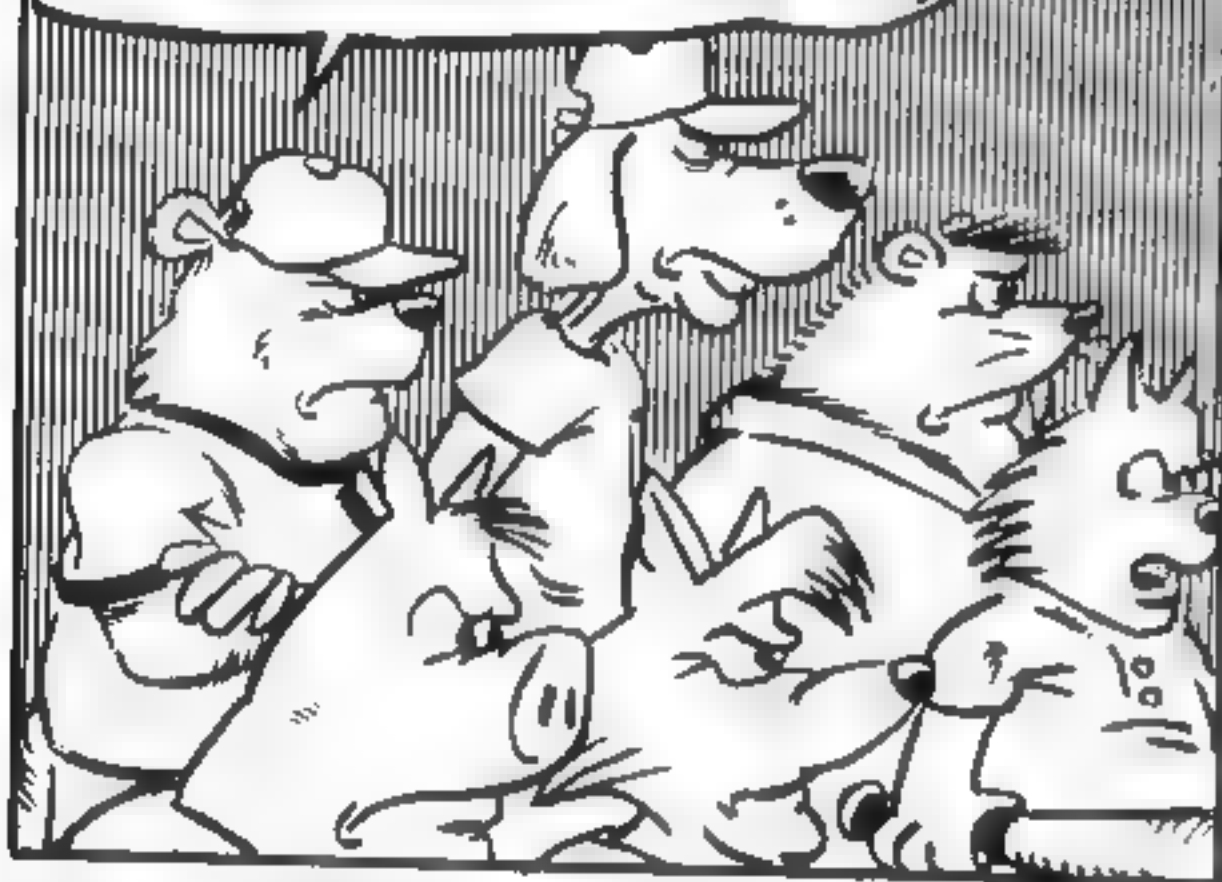
IT WAS SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T MIND...
UNLESS YOU WERE A MOTHER!

BILLY! DANNY!...
GET OFF OF THAT
STREET, RIGHT NOW!
IF I CATCH YOU BOTH
PLAYING BALL ON...

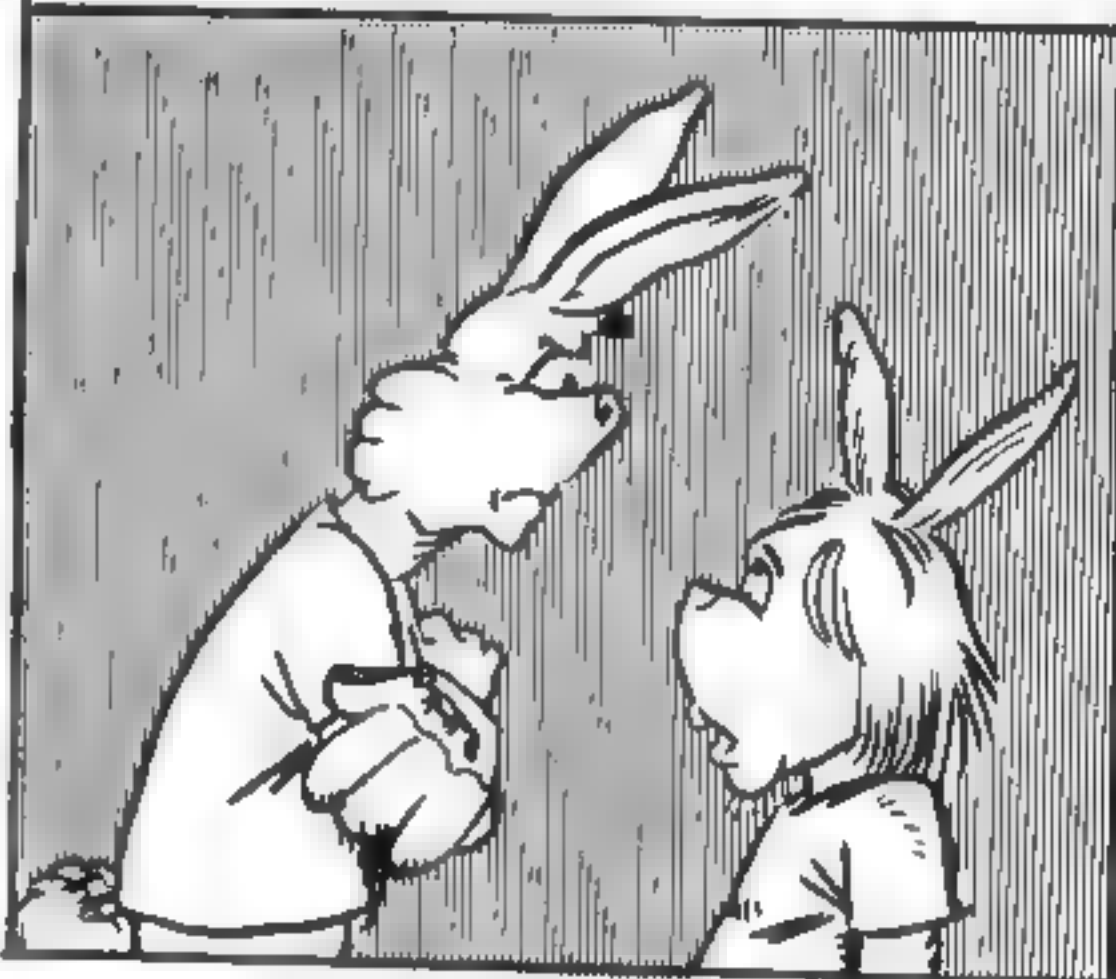


SINCE GREAT STRIDES WERE TAKEN TO
KEEP THE NATURE OF THE GAMES A SECRET...

GREAT! NOW WHAT IF WE DO?



IT WAS APPARENT THAT SOMEONE
HAD SNITCHED !!!



I KNOW! LET'S GO FURTHER
DOWN THE STREET AND PLAY!!!



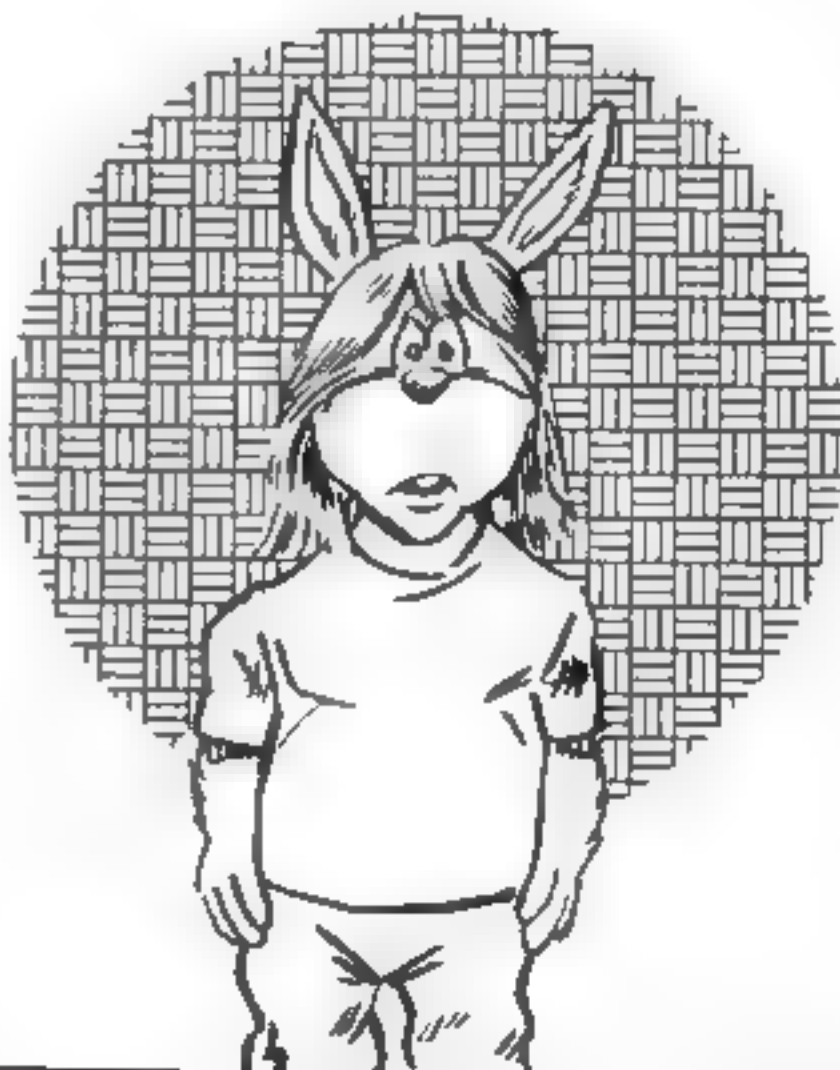
CAN I PLAY, TOO?



WE DON'T ALLOW NO
SNITCHES ON OUR TEAM!
COME ON, GUYS, LET'S GO!



"GO HOME, YOU LITTLE SNITCH !!!"



DANNY WOODS HAD JUST FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY, THAT BEING THE YOUNGEST BROTHER IS A THANKLESS JOB



DANNY WOODS WAS A NICE KID WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS DAYS TRYING TO PLEASE HIS OLDER BROTHER, BILLY



"DO YOU THINK I'M A SNITCH?"

"NAH!"



"ALL I WANT TO DO IS TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH BILLY AND THE OTHER GUYS, Y'KNOW!"



"I'LL TELL YOU WHAT? GO ASK YOUR MOM, IF YOU CAN GO OVER TO DURKIN PARK WITH ME TO PLAY BALL."



"IF SHE HAS ANY QUESTION, SHE CAN TALK TO ME, OKAY?"



OF COURSE, I HAD A PLAN...
... ON OUR WAY OVER, I'D PICK UP THE OTHER KIDS...



... AND WE'D SPEND THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON PLAYING IN A REAL BALL PARK !!!



DANNY, WADDYA SAY WE
PICK UP YOUR BROTHER
AND THE GUYS AND MAKE
IT A REAL GAME ?!

BUT, THEY WONT
LET ME PLAY ..

BUT SOMETIMES, THE BEST
LAID PLANS...

... I'M SURE THEY WILL...

HEY!!!

... TURN TO SHIT.
REAL FAST!!!

THE KIDS WERE DOWN ON
THE CORNER OF 12TH AND
LA GRANGE, AND IT WAS
THE BOTTOM OF 4th Inning.

THE BASES WERE LOADED
THE GAME WAS TIED AND
THE PITCHER'S CONCENTRATION
WAS UNBROKEN.

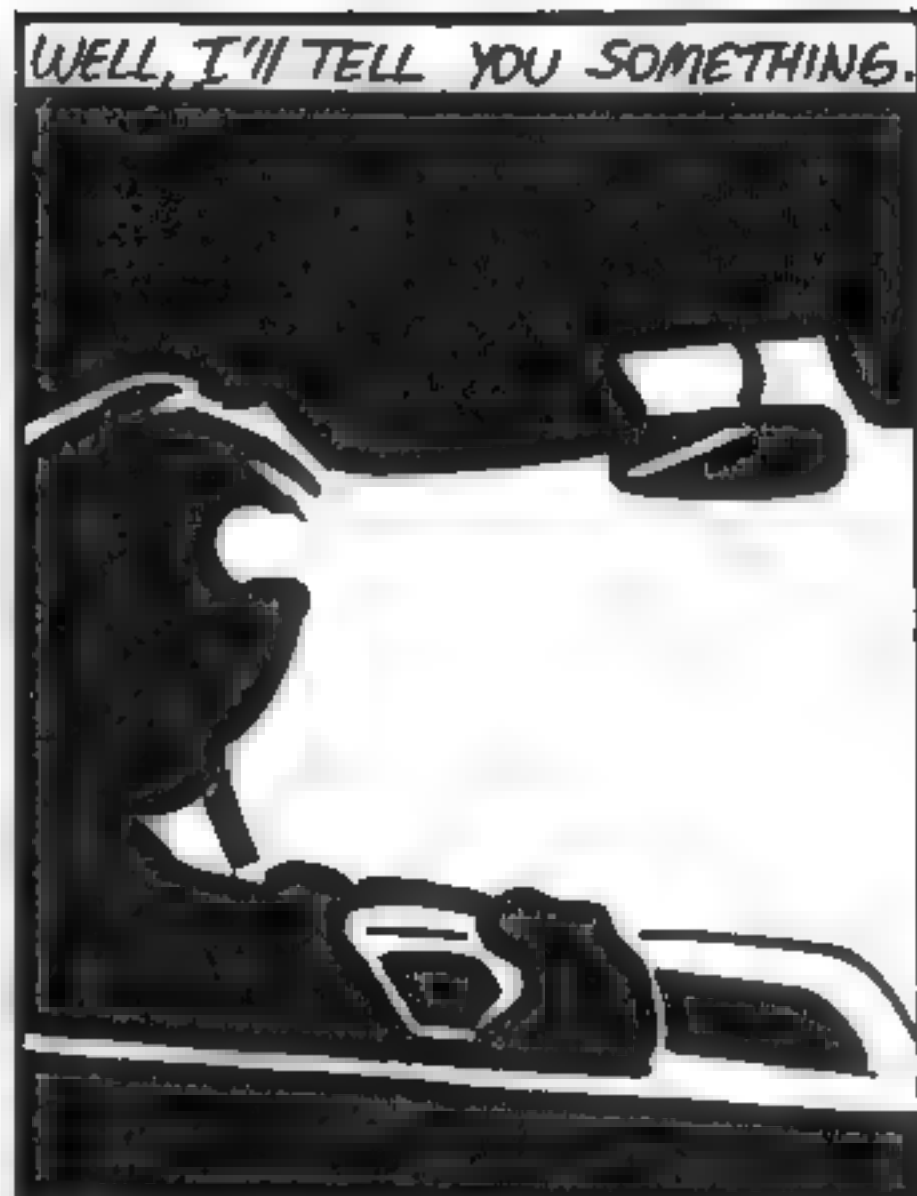
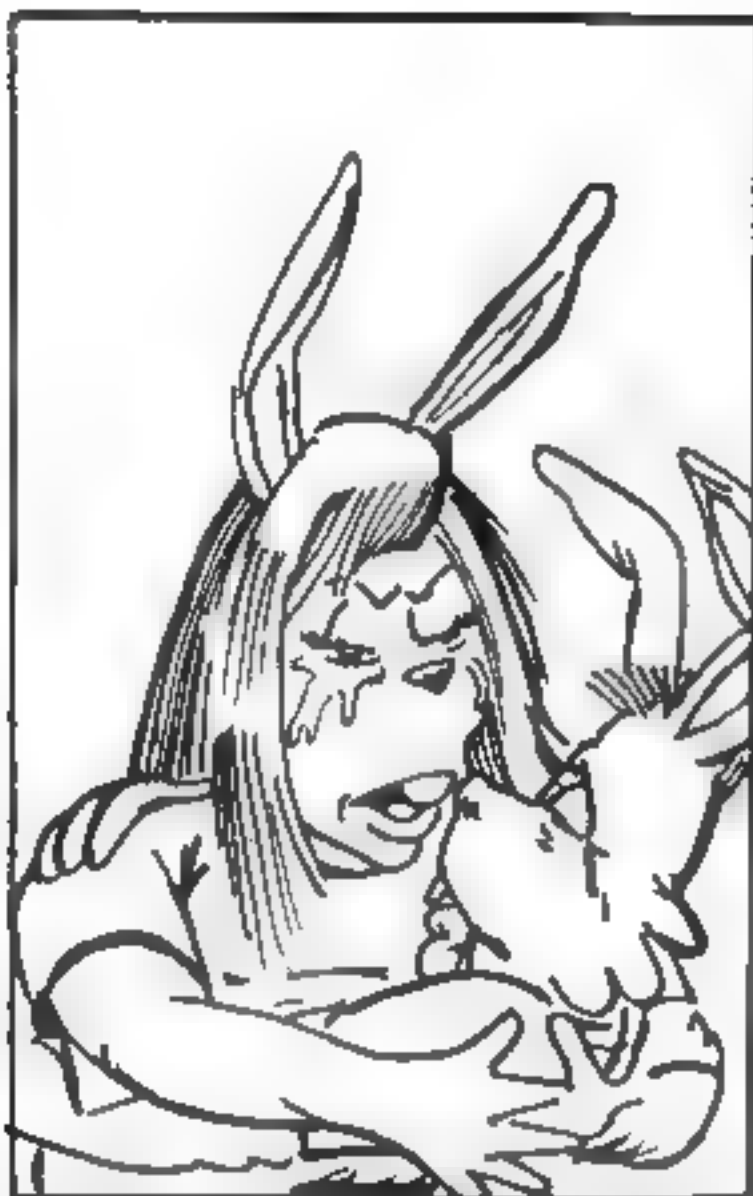
UNTIL NOW.

DANNY SPRANG FROM MY
CAR, SCREAMING AT THE TOP
OF HIS LUNGS THIS COULDN'T
BE HAPPENING TO BILLY.

"GET UP!" "GET UP!" HE
CRIED, AND CRIED, AND
CRIED. BILLY WASN'T
GETTING UP

DANNY KEPT CRYING.

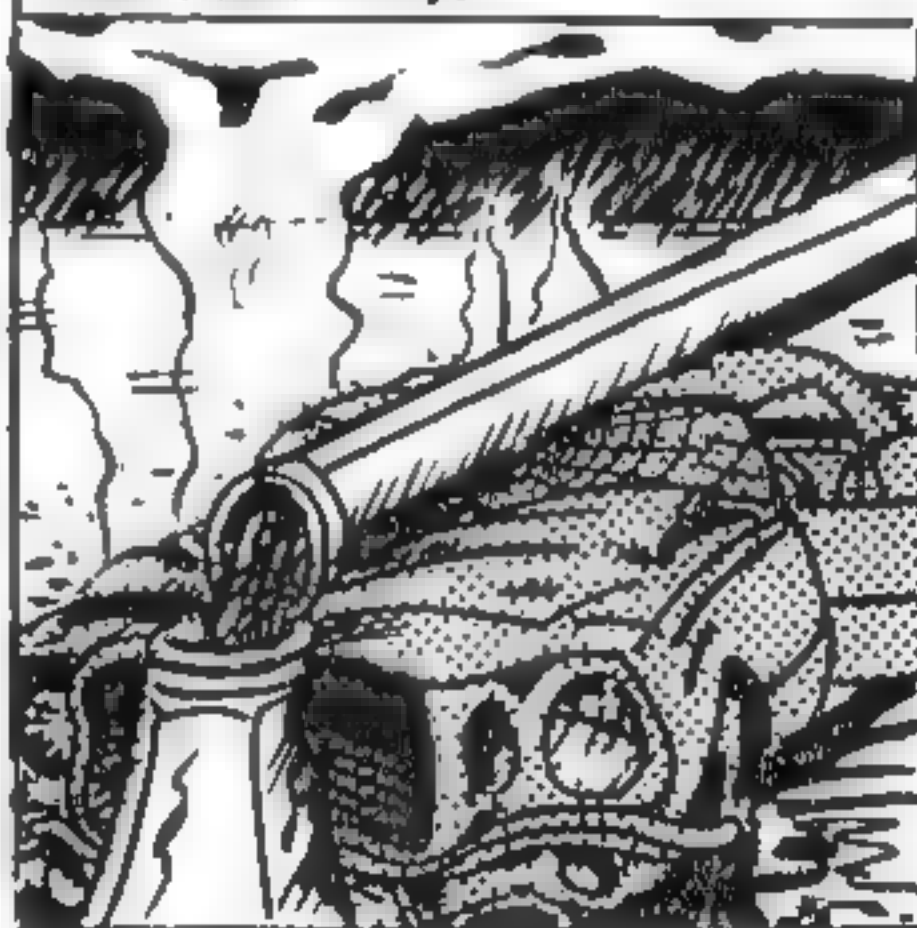
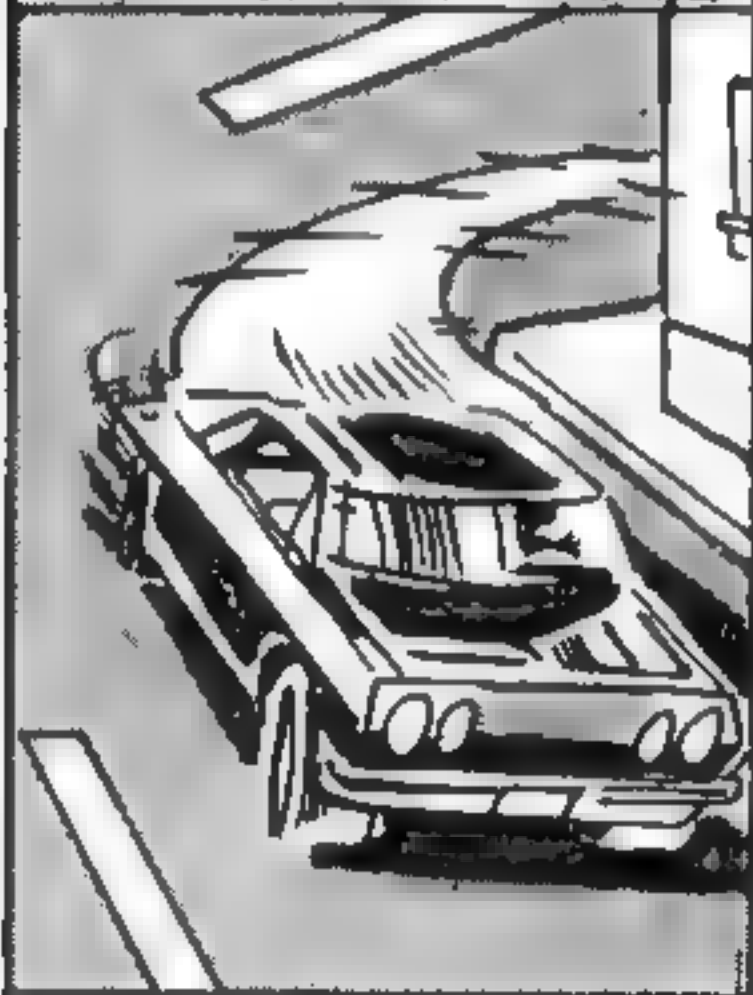
AND THE DAMNED SON OF A BITCH,
IN THE CAMARO, WASN'T STOPPING.



...TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME! EVERYBODY THESE DAYS IS IN SUCH A HURRY...

NOBODY WANTS TO STOP FOR ANY BODY...

OR ANYTHING. SOME FOLKS JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR THEMSELVES, THE HARD WAY.

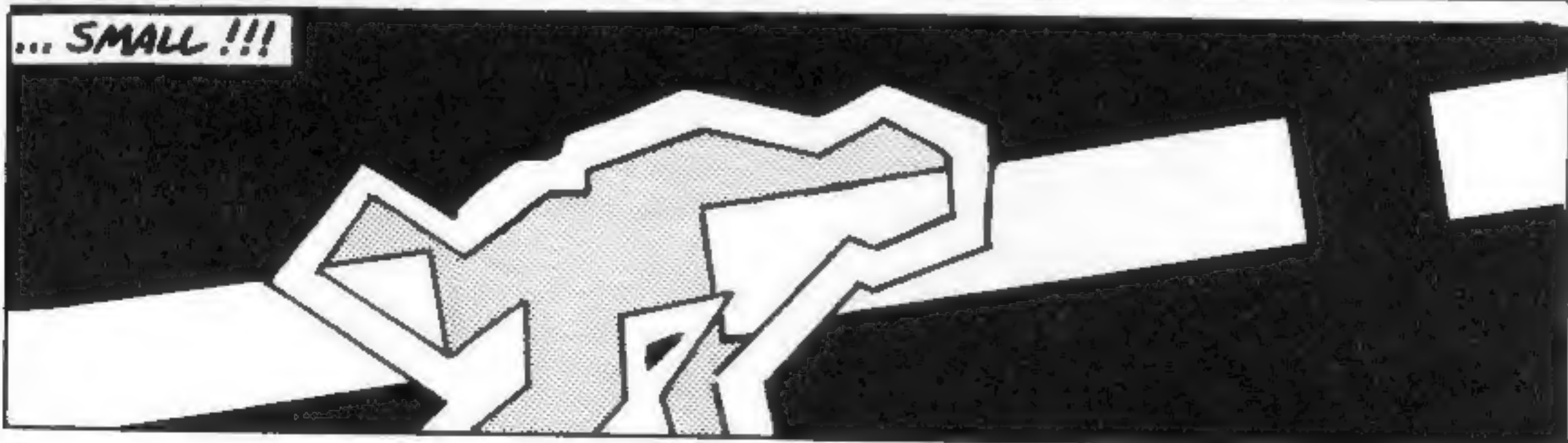
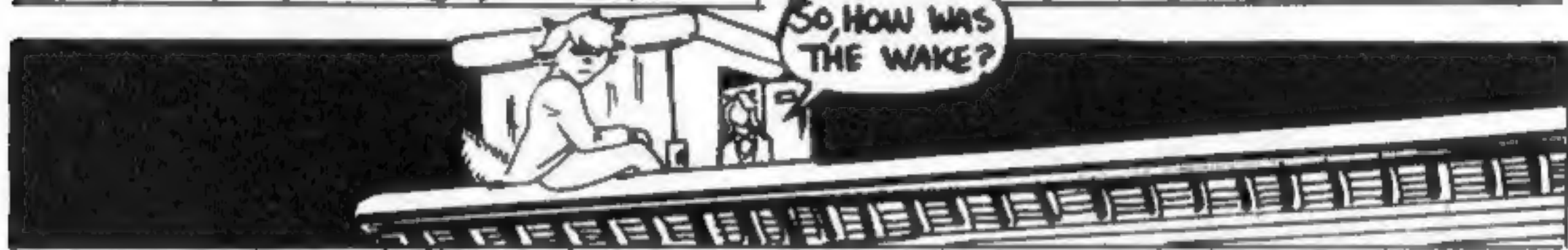
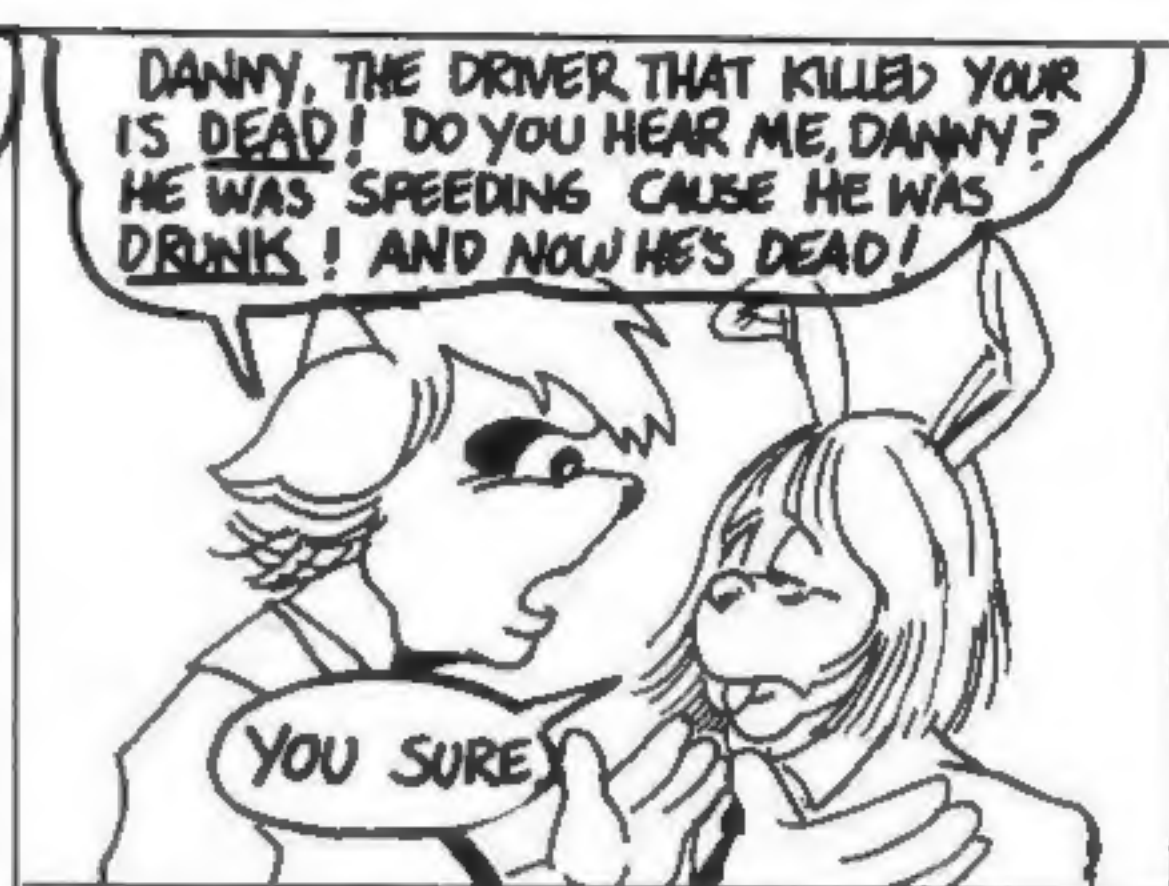


THAT NIGHT, EVERYONE AGREED THAT THE LORD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...

IT WAS ALL DONE IN A POLITE, HUSHED TONE. THAT WAS BROKEN...

WHEN DANNY SAID IN CALM VOICE "IT'S MY FAULT, YOU KNOW!"







FROM THE PUBLISHER

Jim Groat

Welcome to the first issue of MORPHS. What does morphs stand for? Its short for "anthropomorphic". This comic will deal strictly with the world of "funny Animals". Heaven knows there's enough superhero comics out there. Within these pages are artists who are known in fandom for their work, some nationally. We at Graphxpress will be bringing new talent to you on a continuous basis, giving exposure to artists deserving and waiting for their "big break".

Also, more well-known artists are slated to appear in upcoming issues. If things go well enough, depending on you readers out there, some of these works just might end up in books of their own.

MORPHS is scheduled to be published quarterly and, depending on you again, could become bi-monthly. This is what we're hoping for.

Future contributors will be Greg Bear, Brett Koth, Ken (Space Ark / Myth Adventures) Mitchrone and possibly Donna Barr (seen in The Dreamery #1), plus many others yet to be named (I'm still working on 'em [twist, twist {OW! My arm!}])).

DO YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE TALENT?

We are soliciting submissions by any budding "funny-animal" cartoonists out there for possible publication in MORPHS. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE,

DO NOT SEND YOUR ORIGINALS TO US!! Send good xerox copies with an S.A.S.E. and your full address and phone number on a separate sheet of paper. Those submissions sent without an S.A.S.E. will be trashed.

Who knows, your feature might be the new "Ninja Turtles".

Send submissions to:

MORPHS SUBMISSIONS

P.O.Box 32292

Tucson, AZ 85751

PHIL MORRISSEY

Oh, Lord, um, well I guess that I'd better write this bio fast 'cause all I've got is a quarter of a page to work with and I've already wasted a chunk of that now! Let's see, mmmmm..... wait!!! Time for a movie break...

"Dave, what are you doing, Dave?"

"Just giving you a small lobotomy, HAL."
beep

"Mother, Mother...yes, Mother, I'll kill the little slut, just as you said!"

beep

"The defendant, Mrs. Koplowski, is being accused of having her home-made nuclear reactor mutate her neighbor's poodle, Fifi. She's being sued for \$256.34. And here's Judge Wopner now."

beep

WHAT HAVE I DONE?!? No problem, I'm still in control but it'll have to be fast...

My name is Phil Morrissey, I live in Missouri, I love art, women, comics, booze and MONEY! Read my stuff. Waitaminit!! I've just realised something...

I've been HYPMO..., HYPMO..., HYPMOTISED!!!

ED. NOTE: This poor spud forgot the following info. Phil Morrissey lives in Springfield, MO and is currently the inker of EQUINE THE UNCIVILISED. His hobbies include harassing religious zealots.

TOM OWENS

I can't ever remember a time when I didn't thoroughly enjoy drawing. I have drawn since I was in preschool and have been improving ever since. I'm 17 and I live in California. Besides drawing cartoons my other favorite thing is playing bass guitar in my Duran Duran-Kaja inspired group. I hope to make it either as a musician with my friends, John Bahner and Scott Allen (we are known as "SQUARE RED") or to be an animator for Ken Stack Productions, an up and coming studio with the best crew of talent anywhere.

JERRY COLLINS

Born in October, 1957 in Atlanta, GA, home of Jack Davis and Coca-Cola.

My father was a "fine arts" instructor, my mother a medical lab technician. This is the major factor in my development; from my dad: training and technique, from my Mom a fondness for the silly (you become a lab/hospital staff member and see if you don't get a little bent at the edges).

Training: Atlanta Area Tech School (1987). Hobbies: collecting old books, comics, toys, building (and mutating) model kits, leering at people and hanging around old houses and cemeteries.

Likes: Comics, cartoons, old houses, woods, Beethoven, old cars, vintage airplanes, Max Fleischer, Vaughn Bode', root beer, my wife Becky (yay!), H.P. Lovecraft, Frank Zappa, Ernie Kovacs, airships and other wonderful decapancies.

JOHN SPEIDEL

From his secret base somewhere in the high Arctic, this mysterious and reclusive crusader against crime wages a neverending battle against propriety and good taste. His primary weapons are an arsenal of cheesy comic strips such as Steppinwolf, Macho Mouse and the Many Perils of Kitty Malone, all of which he releases upon a helpless humanity without mercy or regret.

Will this artistic Attila the Hun never be stopped? Will the world of comics be flooded with a torrent of further foolishness? Only time will tell...

TOM LINEHAN

Tom Linehan started drawing at a very early age. As he grew older he began to draw everything, cars, buildings, girls. But his first love was always comics.

His high school years brought a more formal edge to his training when he attended the Museum of Fine arts Scholastic Program. He later attended Boston State College. In the years that followed, Tom worked hard on the West Roxbury Post doing cartoons and

spending weekends doing caricatures at craft shows and local comic conventions.

His work began to appear in the Comics Journal, the Buyers' Guild, Batmania, Supernews and The Science Fiction Times. It was around this time that Tom began developing the character, J.L. Coon, a funny-animal detective. As to what J.L. Coon is all about, read "Hit & Run" and discover for yourself.

When not drawing, Tom can be found in front of his pet VCR, "Sport", watching cartoons and reruns of "Hill Street Blues".

The production staff wishes to extend thanks to Bill "High Noon Snoozer" Logsdon .

Here's a list of suggested reading. If you haven't seen 'em, give 'em a try. Tell them EQUINE sent you. "ALBEDO" by Steve Gallacci, P.O. Box 19419, Queen Anne Station, Seattle, WA 98109. "Eb'Nn" by Chris Ecker and Mike Dimpsey, P.O. Box 463, Brookfield, IL 60513. "SAMURAI PENGUIN" by Dan Vado and Mark Buck, 983 South Bascom Ave., San Jose, CA 95128. "HAMSTER VICE" by Dwayne Ferguson and "NERVOUS REX" by William Van Horn, c/o Blackthorne Publishing, 786 Blackthorne Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020. "SPACE ARK" by Ken Mitchrone, P.O. Box 787, Bethel, CT 06801. From Fantagraphics Books: "CRITTERS"

"USAGI YOJIMBO" by Stan Sakai, "CAPTAIN JACK" by Mike Kazaleh, c/o Fantagraphics Books, 4359 Cornell Rd., Agoura, CA 91301.

And, of course, the masters (please bow and recite after me...), "TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES" by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird, P.O. Box 417, Haydenville, MA 01039. "CEREBUS" by Dave Sim, P.O. Box 1674 Stn C, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2

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